Introduction

Using Image Web Server (IWS) imagery with ArcIMS relies on the ability of IWS to serve Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Web Map Service (WMS) standard images.

The Internet Mapping Framework (IMF) is able to request these images and display them either on top or below the standard map image received from ArcIMS. IWS imagery cannot be integrated in the middle of the stack of layers served up by ArcIMS.

In order to get IWS images to display below ArcIMS imagery, the ArcIMS imagery would need to be transparent (PNG8, PNG24 or GIF) and you would need to make sure the layers in your mapservice are transparent so the IWS backdrop can be seen.

WMS Basics

WMS is a standard created and endorsed via the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). The standard is the most widely adopted of a number of OGC standards and it is well established in most Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) GIS products.

For the purpose of integrating IWS WMS feeds in IMF we need to know the URL to the IWS WMS server. Using this URL we can obtain a list of available imagery in xml format using the following call in a web browser:


This will return a list of the available images which we will use to configure IMF to obtain the images of interest.

Calling IWS from IMF

To include IWS (or any other WMS service) in an ArcIMS/IMF site (such as MapShare) you need to include the wms-layer element in your layer.xml.

You will also need a username and password for your application. Refer to the Username Password section below for more information.

```xml
<wms-layer name="Your name for the layer"
position="bottom"
authentication="user:password"
version="1.1.1"
format="image/png"
srs="EPSG:102171"
layers=melbourne_2004dec03_air_vis_35cm_vg94.ecw"
visible="true"
max-scale="200005"/>
```

Refer to the IMF documentation for more on what is possible with the wms-layer tag.; http://www.moximedia.com/docs/imf-aims/5.1/layer/wms-layer.html

Image Web Server Contact Details

The Information Services Division (DELWP) is managing the IWS. Please address any feedback or queries to GIS.Helpdesk@delwp.vic.gov.au

Ground Rules

Always follow these simple rules when using both ArcIMS and WMS feeds into the same site:

1. When working with a mix of ArcIMS and IWS imagery you should set your mapservice to generate PNG or GIF images as they are the only ones supporting transparency.

2. Make sure you set a mapbackground colour in your site-config (<map-background color="255,255,250" transparent="true"/>)

3. Make sure your polygon layers are transparent allowing for images to be visible from below where applicable.

4. Make sure the layers you load are in the same projection as your mapservice. All MapShare sites are based on VICGRID 94 so only WM layers with the srs="EPSG:102171" are valid to use in your site.

Troubleshooting

Label Problems

Problem: Labelling is illegible when viewed over the top of IWS imagery, even when using outline tag in AXL.

Solution: Problem occurs when the RGB color used for the TEXTSYMBOL outline in the AXL is the same as the map background as specified in the IMF site-config XML.

Simplest solution is to make mapbackground a minimum of 5 units different in any one of the RGB values.

Transparency

Problem: The layer shows in the IMF layer list, but when turned on it does not become visible in the map.

Solution: Make sure you have set the mapservice to use PNG 8 or PNG24 bit images in ArcIMS administrator. JPG does not allow for transparency. If this does not resolve the problem, make the IWS layer display on top of the ArcIMS image using position="top" in the wms-layer tag. If the layer now displays the problem is caused by solid layers in the ArcIMS mapservice blocking out the IWS image below. Review the AXL shading rules for all large landcover layers to allow transparency.

Username Password

Viewing imagery via the Image Web Server now requires a user name and password. If you don’t have a username and password for the Image Web Server you will need to apply for one as follows (refer to Register a User for more detailed instructions);

Forgotten Your Password?

Click here to reset your password.